

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TITLE: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR TEMPERING AND HUMIDIFYING GAS,
ESPECIALLY RESPIRATORY AIR

Amendment A: CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1- 10 (canceled).

11. (new) A system for heating and humidifying a gas comprising:

a fluid reservoir;

a humidification chamber in fluid communication with said fluid reservoir, said humidification chamber having a gas inlet and a gas outlet;

a circulating driving means cooperative with said fluid reservoir and with said humidification chamber for passing a fluid from said fluid reservoir through a gas in said humidification chamber and for passing the fluid from said humidification chamber back to said fluid reservoir; and

a heating means cooperative with the fluid of said fluid reservoir, said heating means for elevating a temperature of the fluid passed through said humidification chamber.

12. (new) The system of Claim 11, said humidification chamber having a sprinkler suitable for delivering the fluid into said humidification chamber.

13. (new) The system of Claim 12, said humidification chamber having a surface therein positioned so as to receive the fluid thereon.

14. (new) The system of Claim 11, said humidification chamber being pressurized.

15. (new) The system of Claim 11, said circulating driving means being a pumping means for feeding the fluid from said fluid reservoir to said humidification chamber, said humidification chamber and said fluid reservoir being connected by a fluid circuit.

16. (new) The system of Claim 11, said circulating driving means being a rotation body that partially dips into the fluid in said fluid reservoir.

17. (new) The system of Claim 16, said body being a stack of plates connected in spaced relation to each other.

18. (new) A method for humidifying a gas comprising:

supplying a gas from a reservoir;

controllably flowing the supplied gas;

heating and humidifying the supplied gas by sprinkling the supplied gas with a fluid;

and

feeding the heated and humidified gas to a patient.

19. (new) The method of Claim 18, the step of humidifying occurring before the step of controllably flowing the supplied gas.

20. (new) The method of Claim 18, the step of heating and humidifying being in a pressurized chamber, said pressurized chamber having a temperature therein that is greater than a temperature of the gas fed to the patient, the gas fed to the patient being depressurized to a level of normal respiratory gas.